

Good Soil Lutheran Ministries

Growing Together in Christ to Love and Serve



24th Sunday after Pentecost

November 12th, 2023

9:30 am



20300 Hilliard Blvd
Rocky River, OH 44116
(440) 331-1773

The Rev. Marissa Harrison
pastormarissa@goodsoillutheran.org
Cell Phone: 813-494-6507

Church Administrator Cara Rovella
admin@goodsoillutheran.org

Website: GoodSoilLutheran.org
Facebook: [goodsoillutheranministries](https://www.facebook.com/goodsoillutheranministries)
Instagram: [goodsoilchurch](https://www.instagram.com/goodsoilchurch)
YouTube: [Good Soil Lutheran Ministries](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

Welcome

We welcome all who are seeking God's love and grace. We welcome all because God welcomes all, regardless of race or culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, or relationship status. We welcome all without regard to addictions, physical or mental health, imprisonment, socio-economic circumstances, or anything that too often divides us. Our unity is in Christ.

For Parents with Children

Good Soil loves kids and the "holy noise" they bring! Your children are warmly welcome in worship. Sing, pray, and respond; your children will learn by worshiping with you. There's also a "prayground" area in the back of the sanctuary and a nursery/cry room behind that on the back left side. We pray that worshiping together as a family is a meaningful experience!

For Those Needing Hearing Assistance

Please ask an usher about our hearing assistance devices to enhance your worship experience.

Holy Communion

Christ is truly present with us in worship and through this meal. All are welcome to participate in Holy Communion here at Good Soil. Children may commune with elements or receive a blessing depending on parent/guardian preference. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice available upon request.

Key: Bold Font – Spoken by the Congregation

Regular Font – Spoken by the Pastor or Worship Assistant

† – Please stand as you are able, in body or spirit.

24th Sunday after Pentecost

Today the prophet Amos calls for justice to roll down like waters. Jesus tells the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids. Surrounded by the faithful of every time and place, we celebrate Christ's coming in our midst in the word of life and the feast of victory—the marriage feast of the lamb.

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Prelude

Welcome

In the Confession and Forgiveness, we are drawn by God's mercy to prepare to assemble around the Word and Sacrament. It may be seen as a return to the gift of Baptism through repentance.

† **Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
in whose image we are made,
who claims us and calls us beloved.

Amen.

Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy One,
we confess that we are not awake for you.
We are not faithful in using your gifts.
We forget the least of our siblings.
We do not see your beautiful image in one another.
We are infected by sin
that divides your beloved community.
Open our hearts to your coming,
open our eyes to see you in our neighbor,
open our hands to serve your creation. **Amen.**

Beloved, we are God's children,
and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us.

Through † Jesus you are forgiven,
by Jesus you are welcome,
in Jesus you are called to rejoice!
Let us live in the promises prepared for us
from the foundation of the world.
Amen.

**† Gathering Hymn: Through the Night of Doubt of Sorrow- ELW 327
(v. 1, 2, & 4)**

1 Through the night of doubt and sorrow,
onward goes the pilgrim band,
singing songs of expectation,
marching to the promised land.
Clear before us through the darkness
gleams and burns the guiding light;
pilgrim clasps the hand of pilgrim
stepping fearless through the night.

2 One the light of God's own presence
on the ransomed people shed,
chasing far the gloom and terror,
bright'ning all the path we tread.
One the object of our journey,
one the faith which never tires,
one the earnest looking forward,
one the hope our God inspires.

4 Onward, therefore, sisters, brothers;
onward, with the cross our aid.
Bear its shame, and fight its battle
till we rest beneath its shade.
Soon shall come the great awak'ning;
soon the rending of the tomb!
Then the scatt'ring of all shadows,
and the end of toil and gloom.

Text: Bernhardt S. Ingemann, 1789-1862; tr. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834-1924, alt.

The assembly is greeted with words used by Paul in 2 Corinth. to greet churches. The assembly also greets the presiding minister in return. It is a moment of mutuality that signifies trust, love, mutual service, and a shared hope in God.

† Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

† Hymn of Praise: Glory Be to God in Heaven, v. 1

1 Glo-ry be to God in heav - en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.

The Prayer of the Day highlights themes from the scripture readings we are about to hear.

† Prayer of the Day

O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

The Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

New Testament Reading: Amos 5:18-24

To put this reading into context:

In the days of Amos, people thought that the day of the LORD would be a time of great victory, but Amos announced that it would be a day of darkness, not light. He said liturgy is no substitute for obedience. The LORD demands justice and righteousness in the community.

Hear now the reading.

¹⁸Alas for you who desire the day of the LORD!

Why do you want the day of the LORD?

It is darkness, not light;

¹⁹as if someone fled from a lion,

and was met by a bear;

or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall,

and was bitten by a snake.

²⁰Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light,

and gloom with no brightness in it?

²¹I hate, I despise your festivals,

and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.

²²Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,

I will not accept them;

and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals

I will not look upon.

²³Take away from me the noise of your songs;

I will not listen to the melody of your harps.

²⁴But let justice roll down like waters,

and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

We welcome the gospel by singing the Gospel Acclamation. We rise, if able, in anticipation of Christ being revealed to us through the Living Word of the Gospel.

† Gospel Acclamation: Celtic Alleluia – ELW 174



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Before and after the reading of the Gospel, we give thanks and praise to Jesus Christ, who is revealed to us through the Gospel reading.

† Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13

To put this gospel reading into context:

Jesus tells a parable about his own second coming, emphasizing the need for readiness at all times.

The holy Gospel according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; ⁴but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. ⁶But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ ⁷Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ ⁹But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ ¹⁰And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. ¹¹Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ ¹²But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ ¹³Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon

Children grade 1 and younger are invited to step out with one of our Sunday School teachers to join the “learn and grow in faith” class during the sermon. They will return during the Passing of the Peace. Sunday School classes for all children (nursery school – grade 6) meet after worship.

Sermon: The Rev. Marissa Harrison

Silence for Reflection.

Thinking theologically is a spiritual practice. You're invited to reflect on the following question:

Can you think of a time when you noticed God's presence in hindsight? What helped you identify the action or presence of God? What stood in the way of you noticing that in the moment? How might we “keep awake” to God's activity in our midst, so we can join in with it?

† Hymn of the Day: Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers- ELW 244

- 1 Rejoice, rejoice, believers,
and let your lights appear;
the evening is advancing,
and darker night is near.
The bridegroom is arising
and soon is drawing nigh.
Up, pray and watch and wrestle;
at midnight comes the cry.
- 2 The watchers on the mountain
proclaim the bridegroom near;
go forth as he approaches
with alleluias clear.
The marriage feast is waiting;
the gates wide open stand.
Arise, O heirs of glory;
the bridegroom is at hand.

3 The saints, who here in patience
their cross and suff'rings bore,
shall live and reign forever
when sorrow is no more.
Around the throne of glory
the Lamb they shall behold;
in triumph cast before him
their diadems of gold.

4 Our hope and expectation,
O Jesus, now appear;
arise, O Sun so longed for,
o'er this benighted sphere.
With hearts and hands uplifted,
we plead, O Lord, to see
the day of earth's redemption
that sets your people free!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660-1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823-1907

*As the church,
we pray for
those in our
community and
around the
world. The
prayers are also
responsive,
emphasizing our
own
participation.*

*Each petition
addresses a
different topic,
often in the same
pattern:*

*+ The Church
+ Creation*

† Prayers of Intercession

Let us turn our hearts to God, our breath and life, as we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

O God for whom we wait, come quickly to your people and center us in hope found only in you. Deepen our faith through meaningful worship and send us out with your justice and truth. Receive our prayer, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

O God for whom we watch, we glimpse your power in rushing water and your beauty in the darkening night. Restore this creation, and save us from foolish, wasteful living. Receive our prayer, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

+ Nations and leaders
+ Those in need
+ This faith community
+ The great cloud of witnesses/those now resting with God

O God for whom we long, let justice roll down like waters on all nations. Bless citizens with wise leaders; save your children from war, especially in Ukraine, Russia, Israel, and Gaza. We also pray for the veterans of this community, that they are supported and loved. Receive our prayer, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

O God, in whom we hope, we pray for all who are in need. Provide for those who experience homelessness or hunger, support the under- or unemployed, and comfort any who are suffering this day especially Peter, Helen, Jane, Carl, Tanya, Phyllis, Betty, Joe, Willie, Pat, Char, Rich, Anna, Jeanette, Archer, Steve, Dick, Khams and his people and family in Manipur, India, Family and friends of Floyd Nelson, Family and friends of Marie Sternad, and the family and friends of Connie Bilski ... and all those we name aloud or silently in our hearts. Receive our prayer, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

O God for whom we listen, inspire the music ministry of our congregation. Fill our worship with songs to proclaim your greatness. Help us to sing and dance with joy and tell boldly of your salvation. Receive our prayer, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

O God, in whom we remain, we remember our loved ones who have died and now live in you. Bring comfort and the assurance of new life to all who grieve. Receive our prayer, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We offer our spoken prayers and those held in our hearts trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

A practice of the ancient church, where we recognize Christ's peace in one another and share it together.

† Passing of the Peace

The Peace of Christ be with you always
And also with you.

The people greet one another saying, "Peace" or "Peace be with you" sharing the peace of Christ with one another in a no-touch or low-touch way, such as a wave, peace sign, or elbow bump.

God entrusts us with everything we have. Our offering is one way we give thanks to God and support the ministry of the church.

The Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering

God's ministry through Good Soil makes a difference, and your offering makes that possible. Help Good Soil continue making an impact by giving today at www.goodsoillutheran.org/support or by using the QR code on the following page.

Aim your phone camera at the QR code, but don't take a picture. A link will appear to take you to Good Soil's support page.



The offering is brought forward to the altar to signify our gratitude for God's blessings.

† Offering Hymn: Let the Vineyards be Fruitful Lord - ELW 184

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,
that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gather the hopes and dreams of all;
unite them with the prayers we offer.
Grace our table with your presence,
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

† Offering Prayer

God of power, God of plenty, all things belong to you.
We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed.
Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.

† Great Thanksgiving

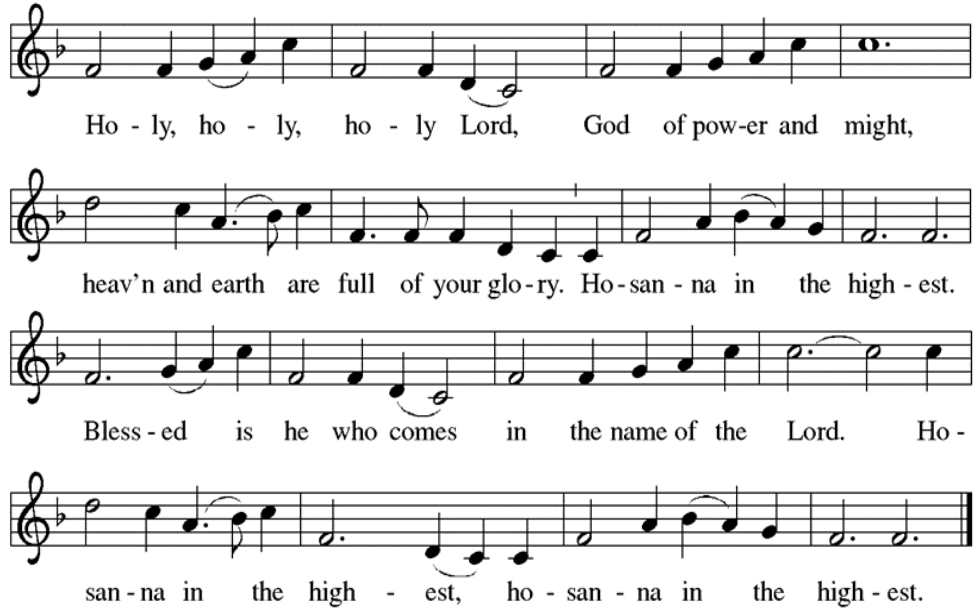
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

† Preface

† Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

† Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer is Jesus' response to his disciples when they asked him to teach them how to pray.

† Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus first taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.

Amen.

† Invitation to the Table

There is a place for you at the banquet.

Come and feast at Jesus' table.

Amen.

Communion

Christ is with us in this meal. All who are hungry for the presence of Jesus are welcome to commune here at Good Soil. Children are welcome to come to the Lord's table for communion or for a blessing, depending on parent/guardian's preference.

When you receive the elements, you are invited to respond with "Amen" or "Thanks be to God."

Please wait for the usher to release your row before proceeding up front. You are invited to stand or kneel at the altar rail.

Gluten-free bread is available upon request. The wine (red) is in the outer rings of the tray, the grape juice (white) is in the center.

Communion cups can be returned at the end tables on your way back to your seat.

Communion Hymns

Blessed Assurance- ELW 638

- 1 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

Refrain

This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior, all the day long;
this is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.

- 2 Perfect submission, perfect delight,
visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love. *Refrain*

- 3 Perfect submission, all is at rest;
I in my Savior am happy and blest,

watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with his goodness, lost in his love. *Refrain*

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915

Christ Be our Light- ELW 715

- 1 Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

Refrain

Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

- 2 Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.
Make us your living voice. *Refrain*

- 3 Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed. *Refrain*

- 4 Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone. *Refrain*

- 5 Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
signs of your kingdom come. *Refrain*

Text: Martin E. Leckebusch, b. 1962 Text © 2003 Kevin Mayhew Ltd. Used by permission.

† Post-Communion Table Blessing

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

† Presentation of Multiplying Ministry Check to Meals on Wheels

The Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

† Blessing

The God of glory,

† Jesus Christ, name above all names,
and the Spirit who lives in you,
bless you now and forever.

Amen.

*Through the
sending hymn
we are sent out
into the world to
follow Jesus.*

† Sending Hymn: Let Justice Flow Like Streams- ELW 717

- 1 Let justice flow like streams
of sparkling water, pure,
enabling growth, refreshing life,
abundant, cleansing, sure.
- 2 Let righteousness roll on
as others' cares we heed,
an ever-flowing stream of faith
translated into deed.
- 3 So may God's plumb line, straight,
define our measure true,
and justice, right, and peace pervade
this world our whole life through.

Text: Jane Parker Huber, b. 1926

Text © 1984 Jane Parker Huber, admin. Westminster John Knox Press

The dismissal sends us out as Christ's Body—fed, nourished, and ready to serve. Worship has ended, and our service begins! The dismissal is based on Good Soil's Purpose Statement.

† Dismissal

Beloved of God,
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

You are warmly invited to gather in the upstairs lounge area for coffee fellowship immediately following worship.

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Today's Worship Servants:

Livestream: Sean Lanter	Reader: Ellen Young
Ushers: Chris & Larry Jacobson	Counters: Becky Williamson & Ellen Young
Online Usher: Dave Blocksom	Acolyte: Luke Williamson



Announcements from Good Soil for Sunday, Nov 12th, 2023

For those in need of healing, comfort, or strength: Peter Alexander, Helen Andrews, Jane Beese, Carl Bruns, Tanya Calcote, Phyllis Clapper, Betty Holcomb, Willie Lee, Pat Lukas, Char Mattson, Archer Oster, Steve Patrick, Rich Petrusky, Dick Schlupe, Anna Sykaluk, Jeanette Weidlich, Khams Zotal and his family and people of Manipur, India, the family and friends of Marie Sternad, and the family and friends of Floyd Nelson, and the family and friends of Connie Bilski.

For those celebrating their anniversary: Eric & Jenna Carlson (11/17), and Ed and Verna Fink (11/18).

For those celebrating the anniversary of their baptism: Gloria Weidlich (11/14).

For those celebrating their birthday: Elijah Pate (11/12), and Edward Inman (11/12).

The flowers adorning the altar today are given to the Glory of God in honor of Scott Wylie's birthday.

Flower Sign-Up- Interested in signing up to adorn Christ's altar with flowers for worship? You can sign up with the flower list on the bulletin board in the hallway or online using this QR code.



Please note: The physical flower sign-up sheet on the bulletin board has first priority. Best efforts will be made to ensure the digital calendar reflects the physical one, but if you happen to digitally sign-up for a date that is already taken on the physical sheet, you will be contacted about rescheduling.

Multiplying Ministry Tithe Giveaway to Meals on Wheels TODAY! Kathy Blackwell, Andrea Molnar, and Laurie Rokakis, leadership of [Westshore Meals on Wheels](#), are with Good Soil to accept the "multiplying ministry" tithe designated for the Lakewood-Rocky River Meals on Wheel kitchen that has been operating out of our church building for over 40 years. In addition to that, this gift will be paired alongside \$3500 of legacy funds from Trinity Lutheran Lakewood given to Good Soil for the purpose of hunger ministry in the community for a total gift of \$7,053--thanks be to God! Meals on Wheels will be leading an adult forum after worship to share more about their ministry, volunteering

opportunities, and ways we can continue to partner together to feed our hungry neighbors. Please attend worship in-person this week as you are able to show your support as we continue to strengthen our ministry partner relationship with Meals on Wheels. Hope to see you there!

Food ministry volunteer opportunities to help feed our neighbors:

Trinity Lutheran at Lakewood Congregational Church (1375 W Clifton Blvd, Lakewood) from 9am-12pm on November 18. *Please bring in plastic bags to help support this ministry and the food ministry of New Covenant Lutheran. Please place them in the bin in the sanctuary level hallway.*

Good Soil is having an Advent Fair! – Do you love Advent/Christmas? Do you enjoy making crafts and/or sharing about God’s love and the spirit of Christmas? Then join us after worship on **12/3** in the fellowship hall for Good Soil’s Advent Fair! **So that we can provide enough craft supplies and food, please RSVP by 11/26 here or by calling/emailing the church office.**



Coffee Fellowship Volunteers Needed! - Please consider volunteering to host and/or provide healthy snacks or baked goods. Volunteers can sign-up using the Ministry Scheduler Pro platform, the sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board outside of the Lounge, or by contacting the church office. Coffee volunteers aren’t expected to provide snacks or baked goods but can if they would like. Anyone can donate ready to serve healthy snacks or baked goods. Please use the sign-up sheet in the hallway or the QR code to the left.



Multiplying Ministry Tithes Giveaway 11/19- Next Sunday, Bishop Laura Barbins will be at Good Soil to accept a Multiplying Ministry tithe on behalf of the synod and lead adult forum after worship. Hope to see you there!

Generosity Emphasis: “More Than We Imagine”- As we approach 2024, we can see that God has done so much more than any of us could have imagined in this place. Good Soil has grown in many ways— in our vision, in numbers, and in our depth of relationships. We have so much to look forward to for ministry initiatives in 2024 and the generosity of the congregation makes that meaningful ministry possible. Thank you to all who submitted Intent Cards for 2024. You can fill out the physical intent card or use the QR code. Here are some statistics from our generosity emphasis. Thank you for helping to share God’s abundance!



1. 44 intents have been received as of 11/8/23
2. 9 are pledging for the first time at Good Soil
3. 28 are growing in their generosity for next year
4. 7 intents are beginning their new level of generosity PRIOR to Jan 2024

Welcome Brynna Bailer Mango, Good Soil's new Worship and Music Coordinator! Council is excited to announce that after an intentional interview process, Brynna Bailer Mango has accepted the position to be our new Worship and Music Coordinator. Brynna earned her Bachelor of Music in Education with honors from CSU in 2021. She brings a wealth of experience including servings as a K-12 music teacher, concert/choral accompanist, and Christian worship leader. Please introduce yourself to her and join us in warmly welcoming Brynna!

Plan your funeral (so your family doesn't have to). In the past around this time of year, Pastor Marissa has offered an adult forum inviting people to plan their own funeral services now so their family members don't have to. (Involves filling out a planning sheet that the church will make a copy of and keep on file for you). If you are interested in that planning material or setting up a planning meeting with Pastor Marissa, please reach out to her at pastormarissa@goodsoillutheran.org.

Good Soil Sunday School

DURING WORSHIP

Pray Ground

A special place to worship in the sanctuary- while being a kid! In addition to books, crayons, small toys etc., a "casually intentional" group activity will be available.

"Learn and Grow" time for children Gr. 1 and younger during the sermon

Children move down the hall to a classroom after the Children's Sermon. They return to the Sanctuary during the Passing of the Peace or Offering collection at the latest.

FOLLOWING WORSHIP

Sunday School for Grades 1 – 6 in Room 1

Junior Sunday School for Preschool/Kindergarten in Room 2

Newsletter- Want to keep up with the latest Good Soil news or share the e-news with a friend? Sign up for or share our newsletter *Seeds* with this URL: <https://tinyurl.com/bddjk7yp> or the QR code to the left.



Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Time
Sun, Nov 12	In-Person and Livestream Worship: Meals on Wheels Multiplying Ministry Tithe and Adult Forum	9:30 am 10:30 am
Sun, Nov 19	In-Person and Livestream Worship: Bishop Laura Barbins Multiplying Ministry Tithe and Adult Forum	9:30 am 10:30 am
Thurs, Nov 23	Thanksgiving Day – Church Office Closed	
Sun, Nov 26	In-Person and Livestream Worship	9:30 am
Sat, Dec 2	Ladies Breakfast @ Gene’s Place to Dine	9:00 am
Sun, Dec 3	In-Person and Livestream Worship Advent Fair Zoom Q&A mtng about the proposed 2024 Ministry Funding Plan (budget). Please RSVP to Council President Ellen Young at eebeese@hotmail.com	9:30 am 11:00 am 2:00 pm